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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0753
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 1309
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0880
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 0816
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 0412
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 1814
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0521
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 1944
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0185

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001019

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS LAURA SCHEIBE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/11/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [ETRD](#) [BM](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: ITALY HESITANT ON FURTHER EU SANCTIONS

REF: STATE 83719

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Gabriel Escobar for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on new U.S. sanctions on Burma to MFA Acting Southeast Asia Office Director Samuela Isoppi August 11. Isoppi said she had read about the expansion of U.S. sanctions to include a prohibition on the indirect importation of Burmese jade and rubies. She said she did not expect there to be agreement within the EU for a near-term tightening of the EU's Burma sanctions. Italy has focused on humanitarian assistance to Burma in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis, and while some EU member states think it is time to refocus on the political situation, Italy believes that any additional sanctions should be accompanied by "positive political measures." Isoppi said EU Special Envoy for Burma Piero Fassino (whose offices are at the MFA and with whom the MFA consults regularly) does not support a broadening of EU sanctions at this time. Isoppi said it would be important to see the results of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari's upcoming trip to BurmQ
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